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SITUATION REPORTS

POLAND

Labor unrest flared again yesterday in the Gdansk area--one day after Polish party leader Kania warned against further strikes and three days before the Supreme Court rules on the trade union Solidarity's appeal about its charter.

[REDACTED] teachers and medical workers in the Gdansk area who were demanding pay increases occupied some district government offices. Police reportedly surrounded the building but did not attempt to remove the protesters, and there have been no reported incidents of violence. Meanwhile, transport workers in Gdansk and other cities near the Baltic coast staged a one-hour strike in support of the other strikers.

This is the first time since labor unrest began in July that workers have left their places of employment to stage a protest, and these workers are thus posing a major challenge to the regime. They probably are also causing problems for the Solidarity organization, which thus far has kept strikers in their place of work and not given the regime an excuse to use police. A Solidarity spokesman nonetheless said yesterday that union officials would attempt to deliver food to the teachers and medical workers.

The challenge to the regime is more significant in light of Kania's remarks on Thursday about strikes. Although the party leader asked Solidarity to become a partner with the regime, Kania also said that some people want continuous tension and even have the "vision of a civil war." Kania said the party has acted with exceptional calm and used only "political methods" to deal with "political tensions," but he warned that the party has "limits which must not be crossed" and explained that opponents of socialism threatened Poland's independence.

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Most of Kania's remarks were conciliatory or defensive in nature, but the action yesterday in Gdansk might bring the situation to a head before the issues can be resolved legally. A government spokesman had earlier said that the legal battle could continue for some time after the Supreme Court rules on Monday.

Reported Military Maneuvers

A Western correspondent has reported that Polish and Soviet military forces have begun joint maneuvers, but we have no evidence to confirm his report, and a Polish Government spokesman said there is only a "normal process of training" taking place.

Czechoslovak leaders, meanwhile, increasingly concerned with persisting unrest in Poland, continue to warn of the possible consequences of a failure to "normalize" the situation soon. During a speech at the celebration in Prague of the Great October Revolution, the chairman of the Czechoslovak trade union stated that there are Marxist-Leninist guidelines within which each socialist country must function. He cautioned that "any divergence from general laws inevitably has to be paid for."

Charging that the "disruptive activity of anti-Communist forces" threatens to weaken the socialist system, the union leader stressed it was Czechoslovakia's duty to "contribute to the consolidation of unity" with the Soviet Union in order to protect the achievements of socialism in individual countries of the socialist community.

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